

Major Water Board Functions and Board Member Roles

Board Member Roles:

Major Water Board Functions*	Regional Board Role	State Board Role
Water quality planning and standards	Provides broad policy direction to staff within regional boundaries, reviews proposals, conducts public hearings, adopts plans and standards.	Provides broad policy direction to staff for state policies, reviews proposed statewide plans and standards, conducts public hearings for statewide plans and policies, and approves or remands for further action Regional Board plans and standards.
Pollutant control (prevention and restoration) strategies	Adopts plans, adopts waste discharge requirements, implements State Board policies and regulations.	Adopts statewide policies for water quality control, adopts regulations, and adopts general orders. Reviews petitions and adopts Water Quality orders.
Pollutant remediation (cleanup) strategies	Issues cleanup and abatement orders, cease and desist orders, investigative orders, and time schedule orders. Most cleanup and investigative orders conducted pursuant to delegation to Executive Officer. Imposes administrative civil liability orders and refers enforcement matters to Attorney General.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board enforcement orders. Issues cleanup and abatement orders and investigative orders; imposes administrative civil liability and refers enforcement matter to Attorney General. Most cleanup and investigative orders conducted pursuant to delegation to Executive Director.
Water quality monitoring and assessment	Imposes monitoring and assessment requirements through permits and investigative orders. Requires investigation of water quality resulting from waste discharges.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board requirements and conducts statewide monitoring and assessments programs. Requires investigation of water quality resulting from waste discharges.

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Water use efficiency	Considers efficiency issues in issuing waste discharge requirements and water recycling orders.	Reviews petitions from Regional Boards involving waste discharge requirements and water recycling orders. Adopts policies and regulations applicable to efficiency issues. Administers Water Rights program.
Financial assistance	Makes recommendations to State Board concerning local and regional projects.	Administers loan and grant programs providing funding for local and regional projects.
Water rights	No specific statutory role but may make recommendations to State Board if water rights/quantity issues raise water quality concerns	Administers a comprehensive water rights program, adjudicating water rights issues and assisting the courts when reference is made. May use combined water quality and water rights responsibility to impose water quality conditions in water rights permits.
Enforcement	Full authority to address any water quality enforcement issue with its region. Cleanup and abatement, cease and desist, administrative civil liability, and judicial referrals.	Limited authority to address water quality enforcement issues. Cleanup and abatement, administrative civil liability, and judicial referrals.

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Major Water Board Functions and Board Member Roles

Staff and Board Member Roles:

Major Water Board Functions	Water Board Staff Role	Regional Board Role	State Board Role
Water quality policy, planning, and standards			
Statewide Plans			
Ocean Plan	State Board staff solicits Regional Board input and drafts plan with CEQA compliance.	Provides input to State Board.	Directs State Board staff, conducts public hearings, and adopts plans.
Nonpoint Source Plan	State Board staff solicits Regional Board input and drafts plan with CEQA compliance.	Provides input to State Board.	Directs State Board staff, conducts public hearings, and adopts plans.
Thermal Plan	State Board staff solicits Regional Board input and drafts plan with CEQA compliance.	Provides input to State Board.	Directs State Board staff, conducts public hearings, and adopts plans.
Bay-Delta Plan	State Board staff solicits Regional Board input and drafts plan with CEQA compliance.	Provides input to State Board.	Directs State Board staff, conducts public hearings, and adopts plans.
Basin Plans	Regional Board staff creates and presents plan to Regional Board. State Board staff reviews adopted plan and advises State Board on approval or remand of plan.	Directs Regional Board staff, conducts public hearings, and adopts plan.	Reviews adopted plan and approves or remands.

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TMDLs	Regional Board staff creates and presents TMDL to Regional Board. State Board staff reviews adopted TMDL and advises State Board on approval or remand of TMDL..	Directs Regional Board staff, conducts public hearings, and adopts TMDL.	Reviews adopted TMDL and approves or remands.
Policies	State Board staff solicits input from Regional Boards and other stakeholders, prepares and presents proposed policies to State Board, and obtains approval from OAL after adoption.	Provides advice and comments to State Board. Implements adopted policies through basin plans and permits.	Directs State Board staff, conducts public hearings, and adopts policies.
Pollutant control and remediation strategies			
Prevention			
NPDES-wastewater	Regional Board staff prepares and submits NPDES permit for consideration and adoption by Regional Board.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts NPDES permit.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of NPDES permit.
NPDES-stormwater (general permits)	State Board staff prepares and submits NPDES permit for consideration and adoption by State Board. Regional Board staff processes enrollment requests and passes them along to State Board staff that handles the enrollment.	None.	Directs State Board staff, conducts public hearings, and adopts NPDES permit.

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NPDES – stormwater Phase I MS4 and individual storm water permits	Regional Board staff prepares and submits NPDES permit for consideration and adoption by Regional Board.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts NPDES permit.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of NPDES permit.
Waste discharge to land (WDR)	Regional Board staff prepares and submits WDR for consideration and adoption by Regional Board.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts WDR.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of WDR. Issues statewide general orders. Adopts policies and regulations.
Wetland protection (401 certification)	Regional Board staff processes request and Executive Officer issues cert.	None.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board issuance of certification. If project is in more than one region, Executive Director issues cert.
Land disposal	Regional Board staff prepares and submits permit for land disposal to Regional Board for consideration and adoption. Coordinates with staff from CWIMB and local agencies.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts permit.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board issuance of permit. Adopts policies and regulations.
Nonpoint sources	Regional Board staff prepares and submits WDR for consideration and adoption by Regional Board.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts WDR.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of WDR. Issues statewide general orders. Adopts policies and regulations.

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Confined animal facilities	Regional Board staff prepares and submits WDR or NPDES permit for consideration and adoption by Regional Board.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts WDR or NPDES permit.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of WDR or NPDES permit. Adopts policies and regulations.
Forest activities	Regional Board staff prepares and submits WDR or NPDES permit for consideration and adoption by Regional Board. Coordinates with staff from Department of Forestry and Fish and Game.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts WDR or NPDES permit.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of WDR or NPDES permit. Adopts policies and regulations.
Tanks	Regional Board staff prepares and submits WDR for consideration and adoption by Regional Board. Coordinates with staff of local oversight agencies.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts WDR.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of WDR. Adopts policies and regulations. Administers underground tank cleanup fund.
Cleanup (remediation)			
UST sites	Regional Board staff prepares and submits cleanup order, cease and desists order, and administrative civil liability order to Regional Board for consideration and adoption. Coordinates with staff of local oversight agencies.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts enforcement order.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of enforcement order. Adopts policies and regulations. Administers underground tank cleanup fund.

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DoD sites	Regional Board staff prepares and submits cleanup order, cease and desists order, or administrative civil liability order to Regional Board for consideration and adoption. Coordinates with staff of federal agencies and other state and local agencies.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts enforcement order. (Authority is limited by federal law.)	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of enforcement order. Adopts policies and regulations.
Brownfields	Regional Board staff prepares and submits cleanup order, cease and desists order, and administrative civil liability order to Regional Board for consideration and adoption. State Board and Regional Board staff coordinates with staff of other state and local agencies.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts enforcement order.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of enforcement order. Adopts policies and regulations.
Restoration			
TMDL implementation	Regional Board staff works with stakeholders and prepares appropriate plan, order, or permit for consideration and adoption by Regional Board.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts plan, order, or permit.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of plan, order, or permit. Adopts policies and regulations.

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Water quality monitoring and assessment			
SWAMP	Regional Board staff provides data input to State Board staff to support the system and keep it up to date. State Board staff maintains system.	None.	Directs staff.
GAMA	State Board staff, in consultation with Regional Board staff, develops strategies and protocols for the ambient groundwater monitoring assessment.	None.	Supports funding and provides overall direction for GAMA program.
Permit monitoring requirements	Regional Board staff works with dischargers to implement monitoring requirements, prepares appropriate monitoring requirements for consideration and adoption by Regional Board.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts monitoring requirements. Executive officer may modify monitoring requirements.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of monitoring requirements. Adopts policies and regulations.
Citizens monitoring	Regional Board staff works with citizens who are monitoring discharges and, if appropriate, brings enforcement actions or permit modifications based on that monitoring.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts proposed enforcement actions or permit modifications based on monitoring.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board adoption of enforcement actions or permit modifications based on monitoring.

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Water use efficiency			
Water recycling	Regional Board staff works with stakeholders and prepares appropriate water recycling permit for consideration and adoption by Regional Board.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts proposed water recycling permit.	Review petitions from Regional Boards for water recycling permit. Adopts policies and regulations.
Desalination	State or Regional Board staff works with stakeholders and recommend to State or Regional Board water quality plans, policies, permits, and strategies concerning desalination. Regional Board staff proposes waste discharge requirements or NPDES permits to regulate desalination discharges.	Conduct public hearing, considers, and adopts permits regulating the discharge from desalination projects.	Review petitions from Regional Boards involving desalination projects. Adopts policies and regulations.
Water conservation	State and Regional Board staff works with stakeholders and recommends to State and Regional Board water quality plans, policies, permits, and strategies that improve water conservation. State Board staff administers water rights program.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts water quality plans, orders, and permits taking into consideration any relevant water conservation issues.	Administers water rights program. Considers water conservation issues in adopting water quality orders, plans, policies, and regulations.

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Stormwater capture and use	State or Regional Board staff works with stakeholders and recommend to State or Regional Board water quality plans, policies, permits, and strategies that involve the capture and use of stormwater. State Board staff administers water rights program.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts water quality plans, orders, and permits taking into consideration any relevant issues involving the capture and use of stormwater.	Administers water rights program. Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts water quality plans, orders, and permits taking into consideration any relevant issues involving the capture and use of stormwater.
Financial assistance	Regional Board staff may advise Regional Board on worthy projects. State Board staff administers loans and grants program, makes recommendations to Deputy Director, Executive Director, and State Board.	May advise State Board on worthy projects.	Administers directly and through delegation the loans and grants program.
Water rights	Regional Board staff has no formal role. State Board staff administers entire water rights program. Regional Board staff may advise Regional Board or State Board of issues involving water quality.	None.	Administers entire water rights program.

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Enforcement	State Board or Regional Board staff investigates enforcement related issues and recommends actions to State or Regional Board.	Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts proposed enforcement actions.	Reviews petitions from Regional Board enforcement actions. Conducts public hearing, considers, and adopts proposed enforcement actions.

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